



Minutes of Mortimer Liaison Committee Meeting, Monday 14th October 2024

Attendees: Olly Thompson - Hills Quarry Products
Dave Phenna - Pinelands Park Resident
Kevin Cross - Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr Rhydian Vaughan – Hampshire County Council
Richard Edwards - Englefield Estate
Tony Wright - Pinelands Park Resident
Frank Rodriguez – Hills Quarry Products

Apologies: Edward Crookes - Englefield Estate
David Smith - Hampshire County Council
Karen Scott – Pinelands Park Resident

1.0 Introductions

2.0 Previous Meeting Minutes

3.0 Operational Review:

Hills Quarry Products (HQP) are currently extracting phase 3, having exhausted phase 1 & 2 reserves. **OT**

Since the last meeting, the culvert has been installed beneath the footpath separating phase 2 & 3. This is to enable the conveyor to link the two phases. There were no complaints throughout the installation process and have had no complaints since it's completion.

We have been felling the remaining trees in phase 3 to expose more gravel. This has been done in sections due to ecological constraints, mainly surrounding reptiles. The recent tree felling exercise has been carried out after completing successful reptile trap and translocation exercises in the area. There is one remaining area that we did not manage to clear this year, but it is hoped to be cleared in spring 2025.

Now that the trees have been felled, we have proceeded to strip topsoil from the cleared areas. This has been carried out under a watching brief alongside an ecologist. This topsoil will be placed in perimeter bunds for noise attenuation and as a visual screen, particularly alongside the boundaries of the footpath.

As of today, we are in the process of extending the existing conveyor further out into phase 3. This is to reduce the run time for the loading shovel from the excavation face to the conveyor. This should not have an impact on anything outside of the site boundaries. The outcome of this will be a reduction in any potential noise and dust emissions, due to a reduction in travel time for the wheeled loading shovel. Not only will this help with production, but it will also increase the efficiency of the site by reducing fuel burn and idle times.

Plant side, there are no notable changes. The silt line and fresh water return line is now in, connecting the plant with the Benyon's Enclosure silt lagoons. We are still currently running on the Rampton's Lane silt lagoon system, however, intend on switching over to the Benyon one's next year, once they have filled up with water over the winter. Rampton's Lane lagoons will remain active however, to ensure a backup in case of emergencies i.e. low water in Benyon's.

In terms of future development of the site, you may start to see reptile fencing being erected around phase 4. This is because we're trying to be as proactive as possible with the trapping and translocation of the reptiles. We're looking to split phase 4 up into sever smaller, more manageable sections, as this proved successful in phase 3. This will be done according to recent reptile surveys which showed varying concentrations of reptiles throughout the phase. A pond has been created in the unworked section between phase 2 and phase 5. This is to replace the pond that will eventually be lost when phase 5 is extracted. At some point in the near future, we will need to infill the existing pond in phase 5. To access phase 5 another crossing needs to be installed beneath the footpath. This will be exactly the same as the recent crossing that was installed. This is likely to happen in 2025/26.

Last year, Rich planted 6,500 trees in the restored area of phase 2. Deer fencing was installed to protect the saplings. Some failures have occurred and will be replanted in late December/early January. This will largely consist of pines, as these have taken well compared to other species that were planted. In spring next year HQP intend to place topsoil in the remainder of phase 2. Then, in winter 2025/26, Rich can plant this phase. **RE & OT**

4.0 Community Engagement

As per the previous meeting whereby, community members brought up their concerns surrounding noise from the operations, HQP have completed environmental noise monitoring surveys at certain receptor points around the site. One of these includes directly outside one of the residents on Welshman's Road. The outcome of which is that the levels of noise due to the excavation works do not exceed the maximum permissible working levels set out in the planning consent.

OT

The biggest concern for residents remains the noise created by traffic along Welshmans Road as well as the safety of other road users, particularly when pulling out of Pinelands Park or Chapel Lane. Tony Wright has been in touch with Highways who attended this section of road and completed a Risk Assessment. The outcome of the risk assessment was that the existing road layout, including speed limits, are deemed to be suitable. However, it was mentioned that given the opportunity to "start again" the highways officer would choose to do things differently. Near misses along this section of road are continually being reported to West Berkshire highways in the hope that they will lead to action being taken. Rhydian Vaughan will also raise this with Hampshire.

TW

This problem is difficult for HQP to tackle as it is occurring on a public highway and therefore, HQP have no control here. However, HQP's transport manager has raised awareness with our drivers and this subject is covered in the driver's handbooks.

5.0 Any Other Business:

Plans/Drawings to be attached to bottom of these minutes. Also, any contact details and relevant links.

6.0 Contacts & Links:

David Smith, Hampshire County Council:
Email: david.smith@hants.gov.uk
Tel: 07810 162684

Richard Edwards, Englefield Estate:
Email: richard.edwards@englefield.co.uk
Tel: 07774 164 205

Olly Thompson, Production Manager, Hills Quarry Products:
Email: olly.thompson@hills-group.co.uk
Tel: 07786733830

5.0 Plans/Drawings:

See appendix at end of document.

6.0 Useful Links:

<https://www.mortimerquarry.co.uk/>

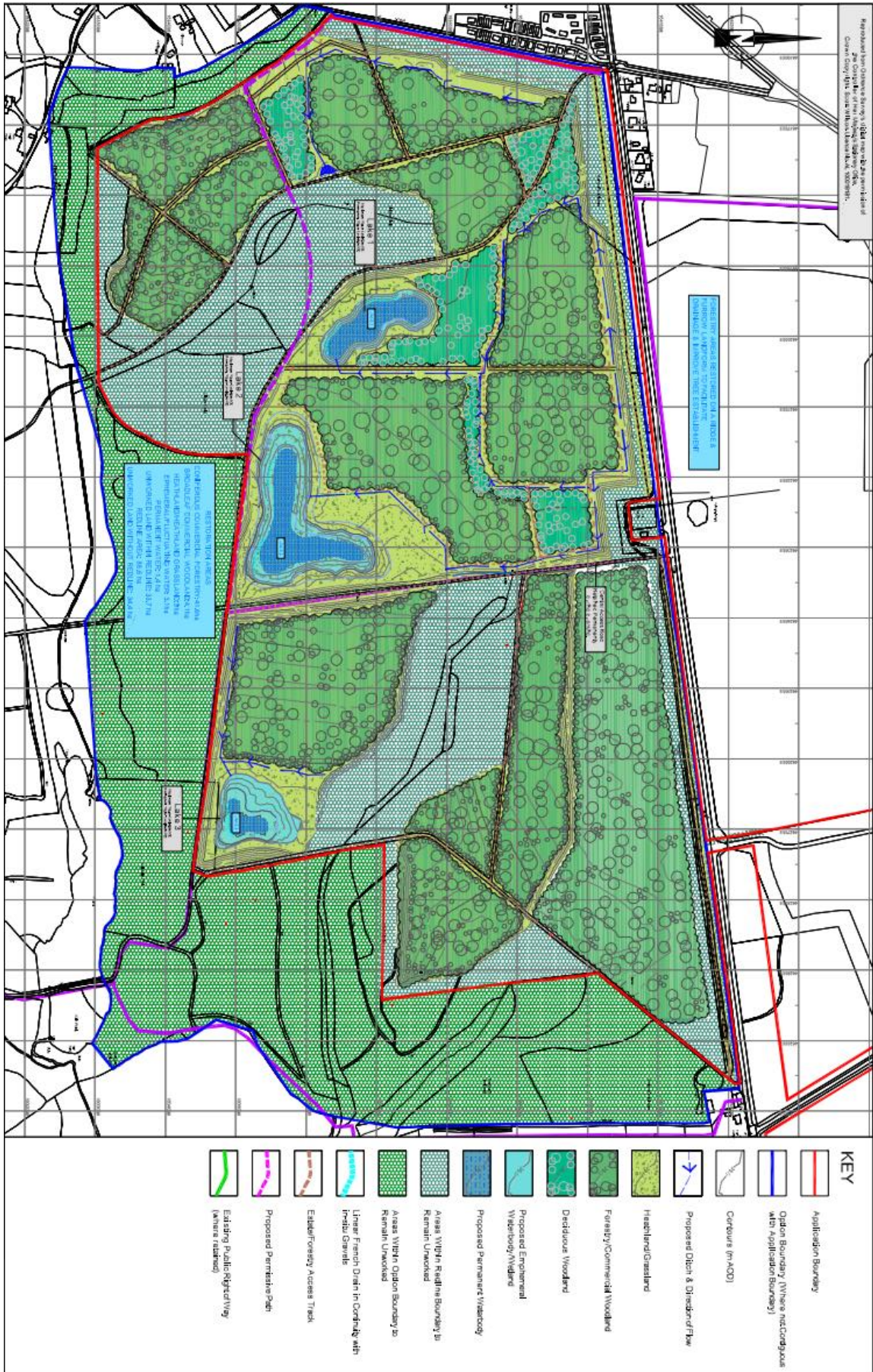
<https://www.hills-group.co.uk/>

<https://www.mineralproducts.org/Industry-Overview/Vital-for-Living.aspx>

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: Feb 2025 (Around 16:00pm) (Specific Date TBC)

Appendix:

Restoration Plan:



Phasing Plan (with brown/orange proposed conveyor routes):

